

Thomas E. Bergler, *The Juvenilization of American Christianity*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012).

Although I'm fairly sure that persons engaged in youth ministry and those concerned with appropriating the latest youth ministry methodologies will learn from, and enjoy this volume I was depressed from the first page to the last.

This book isn't hard to understand, it's hard to read. I could, at the end of the day, only come to the conclusion that 1) I will die and be gone before the church devolves to the point where it will be completely intolerable for me as a place where a desire to appeal to the unthinking and uncommitted has replaced substantive theology. And 2), that it is the Church which belongs to Christ and not Christ who belongs to the Church. It is Christ who is the future of the Church, and not the 'young'.

Thank God, for if the Church were left to the young, it would be destroyed from within. I can simply hope that youth will 'grow up' and 'put aside childish things' before they become the people who serve as Pastors and Elders and Deacons and Song Leaders and Sunday School Teachers and Missionaries and all the rest.

With apologies to the publisher and the author, I have never read something which has left me so unhappy. So unhappy indeed that I can say nothing further of this volume.

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